(ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was sep up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP.

Based on various studies NWD has identified 30 links (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. Further, NWDA has also taken up the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link under Peninsular Component namely Ken-Betwa Link.

(c) The implementation of inter-linking of rivers in the country depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighbouring countries.

(d) and (e) One of the links namely, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal has been envisaged under NPP to provide irrigation in the water deficit/arid areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in Chambal basin. The FR of this link had been completed in 2004. The States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have also agreed in principle for the preparation of DPR of this link.

Joint survey of projects with Nepal

†849. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects which are being surveyed jointly with Nepal;

(b) whether joint survey of some of these projects has been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects and the projects proposed to be constructed during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Saptakosi High Dam Project, Sunkosi storage cum Diversion Scheme, Kamala Project are under investigation jointly with Nepal. Joint surveys for Pancheshwar Project have been completed except for the re-regulating dam site. For field surveys and investigation of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi storage cum Diversion Scheme, a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up in Nepal which would also carry out feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Basmati Multipurpose Project.

(c) The construction of these projects will depend upon the finalization of joint Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and then entering into agreements between the Governments of India and Nepal on the basis of joint DPR.

Flood tragedy in Bihar

†850. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any permanent solution of the flood tragedy in Bihar the huge loss of lives and property takes place in the State every year in comparison to all the States and areas in the country;

(b) whether the efforts made by the Central Government years ago to overcome the widespread destruction caused by flood, through inter-linking of rivers within Bihar itself instead of depending on Nepal, could not be materialized till now; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's view point in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Floods are natural phenomena for which there cannot be a permanent solution. Inspite of the best efforts to mitigate the impacts of floods, heavy losses of lives and property are reported during floods every year from different parts of the country including Bihar; varying in magnitude.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has envisaged to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers in the country starting with the southern rivers in a fully consultative manner. It would also explore the feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers within the States, like Bihar.

Six Intra-state link proposals have been identified by the State Government of Bihar, namely (i) Kohra-Chandravat, (ii) Burhi-Gandak-None-Baya-Ganga, (iii) Bagmati-Burhi-Gandak through Belwabhar, (iv) Kosi-Ganga, (v) Kosi-Mechi (Indian portion) and (vi) Karmanasha Suara links in Bihar. The State Government of Bihar has commenced the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report of these Inter-State links.

Development of water storage in the country

†851. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts being made by Government for water storage, water harvesting and water management;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of ponds/reservoirs in NCT of Delhi and its adjoining areas have become dry due to negligence of Government;

(c) if so, whether keeping in view the scarcity of water, particularly in summer season, Government is considering to issue directions to all the State Governments to set-up task forces to repair/renovate river, drains, ponds and wells etc., and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practice etc. Storage capacity of about 225 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. The Ministry of Water Resources encourages conservation of water including measures such as traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices. Government of India has launched a Pilot Scheme on "National Project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore with a view to restore and augment storage capacity of water bodies and also to recover their lost irrigation potential. The scheme has been approved for 26 district projects in 15 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya

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